Mr. President: Good antecedents are relished, and bad antecedents are not relished.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon: May I know what is the test for good antecedents?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: What reasonable people think to be good, Government also think to be good. I think that the hon'ble member knows the definition in the Indian Evidence Act of 'proved' and 'not proved'.

Dr. A. R. Menon: Suppose a paper publishes any legitimate criticism of your action, I think that will not be an evidence that will enhance the license fee to Rs. 500.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തിയെപ്പറ്റിയും, നയത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും ന്യായമായവിധത്തിൽ വിമർശനം ചെയ്യുന്നതു് 'ബാഡ് ആൻറിസിഡൻറ്സു്'—ൽ പെടുമൊ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: ഇല്ല.

Dr. A. R. Menon: Are the Government satisfied that papers now published are indulging only in fair comments? Have not your attention been drawn to unfair comments persistently indulged by some papers?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: It is for that very reason that when new applications come in we look to the antecedents.

Mr. President: I fully agree with the hon'ble member. I think we can be sure of the support of the House if we take action. Some of these papers are making very unfair comments.

Dr. A. R. Menon: They make villifications, Sir.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: We do not agree, we do not agree.

BEGGAR PROBLEM.

102. Mr. A. V. Moothedan: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether the Committee appointed for inquiry into the beggar problem have reported;

(*b*) what action has been taken on their recommendations;

(*c*) are the members of the Council given a copy of this report?

Mr. P. J. George: (*a*) Yes.

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(*b*) Government considered the Committee's report and found that the recommendations of the Committee are impractical and cannot be accepted by Government.

(*c*) A copy of the report is placed on the table.

103. Mr. M. K. Devassy: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of beggars wandering in the State;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to maintain a poor house at Trichur;

(*c*) whether the Government has considered the question of legislation on the poor problem?

Mr. P. J. George: (*a*) 1,074 according to the figures of the last census.

(*b*) Government will be prepared to co-operate with the public if they will take the initiative and shoulder the responsibility.

(*c*) Yes. Government do not believe that any legislation in the State without similar legislation in the adjoining territories will be effective in tackling the question here.

104. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: With reference to question No. 31 dated 30th November 1937 regarding the solution of our beggar problem and the action taken on the report of the *Ad hoc* Committee, will the Government be pleased to indicate the progress that has been effected in the matter?

Mr. P. J. George: Government considered the report of the *Ad hoc* Committee and found that the recommendations of the Committee are unpractical and cannot be accepted by Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan: Sir, I was not able to go through the long document, the report of the Committee, which was placed on the table only half an hour ago. Will the hon'ble member give us a summary of that important document?

Mr. President: Read through that and then ask the supplementary questions

Mr. P. J. George: It comes to an investment of about Rs. 75,000 to the Government.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: In such important matters would it not be more useful on the part of the Government not to wait for an equal share of public contribution before starting the work? I say in such vital matters the Government must take the initiative, and co-operation may come in due course.

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Mr. P. J. George: I state for the hon'ble member's information that the whole contribution for the year 1112 for the Poor House at Ernakulam was Rs. 5 from the public.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: After all, what is the expenditure on it?

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty: 'Contribution' കിട്ടുവാനായിട്ട് ഗവൺമെന്റ് വല്ല ശ്രമവും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. P. J. George: The committee has promised to give whatever they get for the Poor House at Ernakulam.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty: കമ്മറ്റി റിലീഫ് ഫണ്ടിലേക്ക് കൊച്ചി ഗവൺമെന്റിൽ നിന്നും എത്ര പണം പിരിച്ചെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും പറയാമോ?

Mr. P. J. George: I want notice.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: May I know whether the Government will not take any action unless there is any public initiative?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao: Government give help to all the Poor Houses and even for the Poor House at Ernakulam, they give a good share.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: May I know whether the Poor House now at Ernakulam is not sectarian?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao: No.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: Whether the Government has any objection to start one Poor House each for every Municipal Town?

Mr. President: They can't do it for want of funds.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: May I know Sir, whether the figure '1074' supplied as the number of total beggars is not correct in view of the fact that there are more than 2,000 beggars in one street in Ernakulam?

Mr. President: That figure relates only to people who have declared themselves to be beggars.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: Now we have got a surplus in the budget, will the Government consider the desirability of opening Poor Houses?

Mr. President: I think there is some misconception in the minds of several of the hon'ble members regarding this. I should make it perfectly plain that so far as the Municipalities are concerned, it is primarily the duty of such local bodies to start Poor Houses themselves and if Municipalities come forward to undertake the work, Government will be prepared to help

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them. The Government cannot undertake the responsibility solely by themselves. As regards the enactment of poor law, Government are satisfied that no poor law legislation on the Western lines will be effective in a small area like this surrounded by bigger States, unless the other States also pass corresponding poor law legislation in their States. If they do not, this place will become a paradise for the beggars of the neighbouring States.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: While I appreciate the point of justice raised by the Hon'ble President, let me ask whether the Municipality of Ernakulam has contributed anything towards the Poor House at Ernakulam ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao: Yes. It is only the recurring expenditure that the Municipality is meeting. Towards the original capital, the Municipality has not contributed anything.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim: Who runs the Poor House in Ernakulam ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao: It is run by a Committee.

In this connection, I may bring to the notice of the House that in spite of the fact that there is a Poor House here, very few beggars resort to it. Their profession is begging to make money out of it. Once I took some of these beggars to the Poor House. But they remained there just a day or two and ran away. They want to make money by begging.

PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT—RULES UNDER.

105. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) when was the Payment of Wages Act passed;

(*b*) whether it has been brought into force;

(*c*) whether rules under the Act have been framed ?

Mr. P. J. George: (*a*) 25th Kanni 1113, corresponding to 11th October 1937.

(*b*) No. It will be brought into force along with the rules.

(*c*) Draft rules have been framed and published in the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 16th July 1938 for public criticism.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Has the Government received any suggestion by way of criticism from the public so far?

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